

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for every act of kindness, prayer, call, visit, flower, card, meal, and word of encouragement shown during this difficult time. Your love and support have brought comfort to our hearts as we celebrate the beautiful life and legacy of our beloved mother, grandmother, family member, and friend. We would like to thank our Word Warriors Ministries family for all of your love, support, and kindness, and for everything you've done to make this time easier for us. We love you.

Carolyn Thomas was a woman of unwavering faith, love, joy, and compassion. She touched countless lives with her warm spirit, welcoming heart, beautiful smile, and servant's heart. We are grateful for the many memories shared and the love poured out by everyone who knew her.

Though our hearts are heavy, we find peace in knowing she is resting in the presence of the Lord she loved so dearly. Your continued prayers for our family are deeply appreciated as we honor her life and cherish her memory forever.

The family extends special thanks and appreciation to Hopps Memorial CME Church Family for their love, support, prayers, and kindness during this time.

With sincere love and gratitude,
The Hill and Thomas Family

A MEMORIAL TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF

Carolyn "Gamma" Thomas



Sunrise
January 28th, 1950

Sunset
May 24th, 2026

Saturday, June 13th, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.

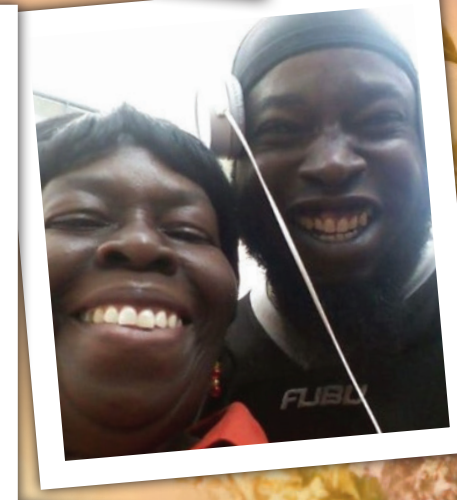
HOPPS MEMORIAL CME CHURCH
1110 South Street
Syracuse, New York 13202

Rev. Dr. Bruce W. Burns, Sr.
Pastor





*"Weep no more children, mourn
no more my family and friends because
I have Gone home to be with
my heavenly father"*



Obituary

Carolyn “Gamma” Thomas was born on January 28, 1950 in Syracuse, New York. Carolyn was born to the late John Thomas and the late Velma Alford Thomas. She was also preceded in death by her beloved son, Larry Smith Jr., and her sisters, Cheyanne Dawson and Marie Thomas.

Carolyn carried with her the values of faith, hard work, and compassion throughout her life.

In Syracuse, Carolyn attended Nottingham and Irving High School. She faithfully dedicated more than 20 years of service to Castle Rest Nursing Home (also known as Vivian Teal Nursing Home), working in dietary services until she was forced to take an early retirement.

A woman of deep and abiding faith, Carolyn loved the Lord with all her heart. She was a faithful member of Hopps Memorial CME Church in Syracuse, New York, where she worshipped and served for most of her life. She was a member of various choirs, president of the Pastors Aide Board, a member of Morning Manna, and the prayer ministry. After relocating to Newnan, Georgia she became a devoted member of Word Warriors Ministries, where she found a loving church family and continued to worship, serve, and grow in her faith. Her relationship with God was the foundation of her life and a source of strength through every season. She believed in the power of prayer and was always willing to pray for and encourage others. Her steadfast faith and intercessory prayers touched countless lives and provided comfort and strength to many.

Music held a special place in Carolyn’s heart. As a young girl, she developed a unique singing ability by listening to the legendary Mahalia Jackson, whose powerful gospel music helped shape her distinctive voice. She also had a deep appreciation for the music of Stevie Wonder. Whether singing in church, at home, or among family and friends, music was one of the many ways she expressed her joy and faith.

Carolyn also expressed her love through cooking and baking. She found great joy in preparing meals and feeding family, friends, and anyone who came through her door. Her kitchen was a place of warmth, fellowship, and love. She was especially known for her famous pound cakes and coconut cakes, which became cherished favorites among those who were fortunate enough to enjoy them. These special treats were just one of the many ways she shared her generous spirit and brought happiness to others.

Carolyn loved her children and family tremendously and found immense joy in caring for and supporting those she loved. She leaves her devoted children to cherish her memory, Tamara Thomas, Velma Hill (George), and John Thomas (Bernadine). She is also survived by three nieces, a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, many other nieces, nephews, cousins and friends whose lives were blessed by her love, wisdom, and kindness.

Carolyn will be remembered for her loving spirit, strong faith, generous heart, and unwavering dedication to her family. Her life was a testimony of love, resilience, and trust in God. She touched countless lives through her kindness, her beautiful singing voice, her delicious cooking and baking, her faithful prayers, and her steadfast devotion to the Lord.

*“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” – Matthew 25:23
Forever loved, forever remembered, forever missed*

Order of Service

Linda Briggs
Officiant

PRAYER.....Judy Hutson

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE.....Tamara Thomas

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE..... Rev. Charles Davis

SELECTION

REFLECTIONS (LIMIT TO TWO MINUTES) Family

SOLO

REFLECTIONS (LIMIT TO TWO MINUTES)..... Friends and Church Family

SPECIAL PRESENTATION..... Video

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT..... Rev. Dr. Bruce Burns, Sr.

CANDLELIGHT TRIBUTE
“Oh Happy Day”